

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PRS-01 PA-02 USIA-15 COME-00 VOE-00 /048 W

----- 021469

R 021000Z OCT 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO USDA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 2421

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 1031

USDA PASS SI GRIDER OF RICE COUNCIL FOR MARKET DEVELOPMENT

E.O. 11652/ N/A

TAGS: EAGR, OTRA, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI GRAIN BOARD VISIT TO US

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 964; (B) RICE COUNCIL TO USINT CABLE OF  
SEPTEMBER 18; (C) RICHE COUNCIL (SWITZERLAND)  
TELECON WITH KILLOUGH SEPTEMBER 26; (D) STATE 225754 #

1. SUMMARY: DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IRAQI GRAIN BOARD AND  
DIRECTOR OF SILOS WILL ARRIVE IN HOUSTON SATURDAY OCTOBER  
18TH AIR FRANCE FLT 067 AT 1415 HR. GROUP INSISTS RPT  
INSISTS ON FIRST CLASS AIR TRAVEL ENTIRE TRIP (WHICH USINT  
STRONGLY SUPPORTS). PHOTOS AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA NOT YET  
PRESENTED TO USINT. VISAS WILL BE ISSUED WHENEVER APPLIED  
FOR. GROUP LEAVES US ITINERARY ENTIRELY IN HANDS OF RICE  
COUNCIL. ACTION REQUESTED: RICE COUNCIL PLEASE US  
TRAVEL SERVICES OF THOMAS COOK IN HOUSTON FOR PROCESSING  
AIR TICKETS. END SUMMARY

2. I WAS VISITED OCTOBER ONE BY MR. ZUHAIR ABDUL  
RAHMAN DAOUD, DIRECTOR OF SILOS, ABOUT PENDING VISIT  
BY HIMSELF AND DIRECTOR GENEAL (DG) OF GRAIN BOARD  
ABU TALIB MUTALIB AL-HASHIMI TO DISCUSS TRIP--TO WHICH  
HE AND DG LOOKING FORWARD KEENLY. DAOUD NOTED THAT  
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EXPLICIT CONDITION OF GOI APPROVED OF TRIP (WHICH NOW

COMPLETED) IS THAT ALL EXPENSES ARE TO BE BORNE BY RICE COUNCIL AND ALL AIR TRAVEL IS TO BE FIRST CLASS (WHICH WOULD BE CASE IF GOI WERE FUNDING TRIP). DAOUD SAID THAT HE AND DG QUITE HAPPY PLACE SELVES ENTIRELY IN HANDS OF RICE COUNCIL FOR US ITINERARY AND IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO CLEAR DETAILS OF TRIP WITH THEM IN ADVANCE. SAID DG HASHIMI IS NOT A GOOD AIR TRAVELER AND RECOMMENDS THAT US ITINERARY NOT BE TOO CROWDED, ESPECIALLY IN FIRST FEW DAYS OF TRIP. ADDED THAT MR. HASISHIMI IS NOT VERY FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND HE DAOUD (WHOSE ENGLISH IS QUITE GOOD) WILL ACT AS INTERPRETER. WHEN I REMINDED OF RICE COUNCIL'S NEED FOR PHOTOS AND BIOGRAPHIC MATERIALS, DAOUD SAID THAT DG SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE ABOUT FACT HE HAS NOT ATTENDED UNIVERSITY AND DAOUD WOULD NOT WANT TO PLAY UP HIS (DAOUD'S) ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS AT HIS BOSS'S EXPENSE IN INTRODUCTIONS AT LUNCHEONS, ETC. ASKED IF HE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SPEAK ON IRAQI AGRICULTURE AT LUNCHEONS, ETC. I REPLIED THAT I WAS SURE THAT 5 TO TEN MINUTE SPEECH ON THIS THEME WOULD BE WELCOME. HE SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE ONE PREPARED. NO PROBLEM ABOUT OUR ISSUING VISAS ONCE IRAQI SERVICE (OFFICIAL) PASSPORTS ARE VALIDATED FOR TRAVEL TO STATES. PROBLEM WITH TRANSMITTING PHOTOS AND BIO STATEMENTS IS THAT MAJOR IRAQI HOLIDAYS OCCUR APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER 5 - 8 AND GOI AND USINT WILL BE CLOSED.

3. DAOUD SAID THAT HIS PREFERREE ITINERARY WOULD BE RBAGHDAD-LONDON-HOUSTON-NEWYORK-PARIS-BAGHDAD. ASKED ME TO WORK OUT DETAILS WITHTHOMAS COOK, WHICH HIS MINISTRY REGULARLY USES. SO FAR AS COOK REPRESENTATIVE AND I COULD SEE, THERE IS NO DIRECT FLIGHT FROM LONDON TO HOUSTON SO WE ARE RECOMMENDING IRAQI DUO STICK TO ROUTING SUGGESTED REF (B): TENTATIVELY DEPART BAGHDAD 0910 THURSDAY OCTOBER 16 ON AIR FRANCE FLT 145 ETA PARIS 1410. DEPART PARIS 10\$0 SATURDAY OCTOBER 18 ON AIR FRANCE FLT 067 ETA HOUSTON 1415.

4. USINT URGES USDA AND RICE COUNCIL WORK OUT FURTHER DETAILS OF TRAVEL AND TICKETS WITH R. ROGER DURHAM, UNCLASSIFIED

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THOMAS COOK REP IN HOUSTON, 1724 SOUTH POST OAK ROAD (PHONE 713-625-5450). WE HAVE AT MOMENT ONLY TWO OFFICERS AT USINT AND ARE FACED WITH VERY HEAVY STREAM OF IMPORTANT VISITORS. SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE TIME AVAILABLE TO INVEST IN WORKING OUT DETAILED FLIGHT PLANS OF GRAIN GROUP, WHOS IMPORTANCE WE DO NOT IN ANY WAY MINIMIZE. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD MAKE AS MANY OF THE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AS POSSIBLE

THROUGH THOMAS COOK (WHOSE BAGHDAD REPRESENTATIVE IS FULLY WIRED IN ON VISIT) KEEPING US INFORMED OF ANY PROBLEMS THAT DEVELOP.

5. GIVEN IMPORTANCE OF TRIP TO US EXPORTS, AM SURE RICE COUNCIL WILL HAVE REASONABLE ATTITUDE TO SUCH MATTERS AS FULL DAY IN PARIS ON OCTOBER 17. ALSO URGE THAT HOSTON PROGRAM START SLOWLY TO ALLOW DG RECOVER A BIT FROM JET LAG.

6. NOTE: ABOVE WAS DRAFTED DAY BEFORE RECEIPT OF REF (D). BELIEVE PARAS 1-6 ABOVE FULLY RESPONSIVE TO REF (D). IF INTERPRETER READILY AVAILABLE, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO MAKE HIM AVAILABLE TO BACK UP MR. DAOUD AND FREE HIM FOR ADDITIONAL CONTACTS. DUO HAS INDICATED INTEREST IN NEW YORK VISIT IN ORDER TO DO SOME SHOPPING. KILLOUGH

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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